

From: Ingo Stainer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/8/02 7:25am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To the Anti Trust Division of the Department of Justice

Let me just mention a statement from the settlement itself:

"Following a 7-day trial in late 1998 and early 1999, the United States District Court found that Microsoft had violated both sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act. On appeal, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia unanimously affirmed portions of the district court's finding and conclusion that Microsoft illegally maintained its operating system monopoly in violation of section 2 of the Sherman Act, but reversed and remanded other portions of the district court's determinations. Specifically, the court of appeals reversed the district court's determination that Microsoft violated section 2 by illegally attempting to monopolize the Internet browser market and remanded the district court's determination that Microsoft violated section 1 of the Sherman Act by unlawfully tying its browser to its operating system."

That means Microsoft found guilty in illegally maintaining its monopoly.

With the settlement agreement Microsoft would be allowed to further on maintain this monopoly.

That would bind the whole Operating System and Internet development to Microsoft.

And that would result into the well known development speed of selling a release, releasing some bug fixes, selling a new version (with some new features and even more bugs), releasing bug fixes again and then starting all over again.

Microsoft is not interested in putting more effort to improve its product but in selling more software at high prices with low reliability.

And the reason why they can do that is that they have the OS monopoly.

Probably you are wondering why I say so and still use Microsoft.

The reason is that our company sells solutions of third party software developers who only provide support for Microsoft Operating Systems due to the monopoly they have.

I am trying to avoid Microsoft Software in many cases because of its low reliability and incalculability. Being a System Administrator for Windows and Unix I know what I am talking about.

Agreeing to this settlement would be a big win for Microsoft and its lawyers but would mean great loss for all Computer users.

This is my personal statement and does in no way reflect any company

opinion.

Best regards

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